

7. HIGH-ALTITUDE RECORDS OF THE HOUSE CROW *CORVUS SPLENDENS* IN WESTERN ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

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In October and November 2008, we observed House Crows *Corvus splendens* at high altitudes on several occasions in different sites of western Arunachal Pradesh, India. The species was recorded in the Lumpo village (27° 43' 07.2" N; 91° 42' 57.7" E) at 2,544 m in a pair, then a single individual near Geypo-Namse lake of Bangajang wetland complex (27° 30' 02.8" N; 92° 01' 45.9" E) at 4,230 m of Tawang district and other single sightings were recorded from Thungri area (27° 26' 50.3" N; 92° 22' 44.6" E) at 3,190 m, Potak area near Chomu lake (27° 37' 19.4" N; 92° 22' 07.7" E) at 4,374 m of West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, India, which are probably among the highest altitude record for this species.

According to Kazmierczak and van Perlo (2000) the species is chiefly found below 1,600 m but sometimes up to 2,400 m. Grimmitt *et al.* (1998) noted it occurs up to 2,100 m in India and up to 2,500 m in summer in Bhutan. In Nepal, it is found below 1,525 m, with only one report from a higher altitude: 2,100 m at Nagarkot on February 09, 1993 (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). In Sikkim, an individual was recorded by F.N. Betts at 2,600 m in May 1943 (Ali 1962). Sangha

and Naoroji (2003) recorded the species from human settlements of Koksar at 3,200 m and Dracha at 3,370 m of Himachal Pradesh and from Karu and Hanle of Ladakh at c. 3,500 m and 4,240 m respectively, which was previously reported to be the highest altitude record of House Crows.

Like the House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*, the House Crow is a commensal species. Increased tourism, development of permanent army camps and exploration of new grazing sites in different high altitude areas of Arunachal Pradesh seems to have facilitated its spread to higher areas recently. Additional observations on the sighting of the species in such altitudes would be useful to understand: i) whether it is a more common distributional pattern than has been previously observed and ii) the contribution of the species in high altitude ecosystems.

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8. STATUS AND CONSERVATION OF BRISTLED GRASSBIRD *CHAETORNIS STRIATA* IN CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

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Bristled Grassbird *Chaetornis striata* is one of the largest warblers of the world and a globally-threatened species with IUCN status Vulnerable. It occurs rather erratically throughout a range that encompasses lowland Pakistan, much of India, the Nepal terai and historically Bangladesh (BirdLife

International 2001). It is a resident species and distributed over most of the Indian subcontinent, but is very local in its occurrence (Ali and Ripley 1997). The rare endemic appears to be closely tied to swampy areas (Roberts 1992). Historical records indicate that the species was fairly common, but it